

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

USDEL JEC PARIS

USLO PEKING

USSAG NAKHON PHANOM

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT: SEPT. 14 EA PRESS SUMMARY

INDOCHINA

1. RLG AND PL SIGN PEACE PROTOCOLS IN PRESENCE OF VIENTIANE DIPLOMATIC CORPS (WP, NYT, SUN, REUTER). (SEE COMMENT).

2. GVN SPOKESMAN WARNS IT HAS "PLAN FOR ACTION" AGAINST COMMUNIST INSTALLATIONS IN SVN UNLESS DISMANTLED, BUT REFUSES REVEAL DETAILS (PHINQ). DRVN FM SAYS GVN WOULD BE PUNISHED "IF IT TRIED TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST THE BASES" OR "RECKLESSLY ENCROACH UPON VC TERRITORY IN SVN" (REUTER).

3. TREASTER (NYT) REPORTS THAT SVN'S INFLATION-RIDDEN ECONOMY CONTINUES DECLINE. ECONOMISTS SAY LARGE PART OF SKYROCKETING PRICES DUE TO WORLDWIDE INFLATION, DEVALUATION OF DOLLAR, AND LOSS OF US SPENDING. IN ADDITION, THIEU EXACERBATED PROBLEMS, LEVYING 10 PERCENT TAX ON "MARKETPLACE" AGAINST ECONOMISTS' ADVICE, WHICH OFFSET MILITARY AND CIVIL SERVANT PAY RAISE AND INFLATED PRICES AND PUBLIC DISCONTENT. THIEU ALSO IMPOSED CONTROLS ON RICE PRODUCTION AND MARKETING WHICH WILL LEAD TO BLACK MARKET, AND REFUSED LOOSEN CREDIT WHICH WOULD FREE STAGNATING ECONOMY. HOPEFUL SIGNS ARE RESETTLEMENT OF REFUGEES WHICH WILL CUT EXPENSES AND INCREASE PRODUCTION, EXPECTED DOUBLING OF EXPORTS TO 45 MILLION DOLLARS, CONTRACTS FOR OFFSHORE OIL DRILLING, AND FOREIGN AID FROM OTHER COUNTRIES. KEYSTONE OF FUTURE REMAINS US AID OF 300 MILLION DOLLARS, WHICH ECONOMISTS THINK IS WORKABLE MINIMUM BUT WHICH VIETNAMESE HAVE GRAVE FEARS THAT SENATE MAY CUT.

4. FANK SECURES KOMPONG CHAM, HELILIFTS OVER 20 FOREIGN NEWSMEN IN FOR FIRST-HAND VIEW. BROWNE (NYT) REPORTS FROM KOMPONG CHAM THAT GKR CONTROLS UNCLASSIFIED

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CITY, THOUGH OCCASIONAL SHELLS STILL COME IN. LOCAL FANK CG SAYS CASUALTIES HIGH WITH 1000 SOLDIERS AND CIVILIANS KIA AND 5000 WIA; 2000 KI KILLED AND WOUNDED; AND 20-30,000 CIVILIANS ABDUCTED BY RETREATING ENEMY, LEAVING 1000,000 IN CITY (DIFFERING FROM EARLIER DIPLOMATIC SOURCE ESTIMATES OF TOTAL KOMPONG CHAM POPULATION ABOUT 60,000 IN RECENT WEEKS). WOUNDED STILL PILED UP AT WATERFRONT AWAITING EVACUATION TO PP.

5. MEDICINES SHORT, GKR CLAIMS ENOUGH FOOD; BUT BROWNE SAW HUNGRY CIVILIANS AND REFUGEES, SO DISTRIBUTION MAY BE PROBLEM. SOME BLOCKS IN RUINS, BUT MANY

PUBLIC BUILDINGS INTACT AND ON WHOLE DAMAGE LOW CONSIDERING INTENSITY OF BOMBARDMENT AND FIGHTING. FANK PLANS DRIVES AGAINST KI WHO STILL SURROUND CITY, OCCUPY TEXTILE MILL AND SOME SUBURBS, AND SHELL AIRPORT GARRISON 4 MI FROM CITY. CG CONTRADICTS EARLIER PP REPORTS THAT 100 HOSPITAL INMATES SLAUGHTERED BY KI; STATES ABOUT 80 WERE KILLED BY GRENADES BUT HOSPITAL BADLY DAMAGED AND OPERATING THEATER WRECKED (ALSO PHINQ; AP SUN, NYDN; CSM). WILLIAMS (REUTER) ADDS THAT MOST CASUALTIES OCCURRED SEPT. 5 AND 6 DURING HOUSE-TO-HOUSE FIGHTING, AND INSURGENTS STILL ENTRENCHED AT UNIVERSITY GROUNDS. SOUTHERLAND (CSM) SAYS FANK PASSED STIFF COMBAT TEST BUT STILL HAS HEAVY FIGHTING AHEAD AT KOMPONG CHAM, AND ESTIMATES ABOUT 20 PERCENT OF TOWN DESTROYED OR HEAVILY DAMAGED. KOMPONG CHAM CG DENIES EARLIER REPORTS OF EXECUTION OF 12 FANK OFFICERS, BUT ADMITS THAT ABOUT 50 SOLDIERS PER DAY WERE JAILED FOR AWOL, THREATENING CIVILIANS, AND SIMILAR OFFENSES (NYT; UPI, WP).

6. IN THE FIRST MAJOR ATTACK ON A MEKONG CONVOY IN OVER A MONTH, KI ROCKETS AND SHELLS SET FIRE TO SK TANKER, ONE OF FIVE, CARRYING AVGAS; FIRE EXTINGUISHED IN 2 HOURS AND CONVOY MOVED ON (UPI, WP; PHINQ; AP, SUN). KI SHELL GKR RADIO TRANSMITTER AT KAMBOUL 7 MI SW OF PP; REBELS CLASH WITH FANK AT VIHEAR SUOR 10 MI NE OF PP (UPI). ROUTES 4 TO KOMPONG SOM AND 5 TO BATTAMBANG REMAIN CLOSED; UNCLASSIFIED

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FANK USES 155 MM ARTILLERY FOR FIRST TIME AT ROUTE 4 BLOCK; FANK POSITION ON ROUTE 5, 18 MI N. OF PP, SHELLED BY REBELS (AP NYDN, SUN).

7. GKR AMBASSADOR TO US IN ADDRESS BEFORE CAPITOL HILL CHAPTER OF RESERVE OFFICERS ASSN. APPEALS TO CONGRESS TO SPEAK OUT ON NVN PRESENCE IN CAMBODIA AND TO CALL ON THEM TO LEAVE NOW THAT US STOPPED BOMBING (AP; PHINQ).

CHINA

8. NCNA REPORTS PEKING BANQUET IN HONOR OF PHILA. ORCHESTRA BY PRC'S ASSN. OF FRIENDSHIP WITH FOREIGN COUNTRIES. ASSN. VICE-PRES. LIN LIN SAID ORCHESTRA'S TOUR WOULD PROMOTE SINO-US UNDERSTANDING AND FRIENDSHIP (REUTER). PHINQ'S WEBSTER, WITH ORCHESTRA, REPORTS PLAYERS SPENT FIRST FULL DAY THERE TOURING PEKING, AND AFTER LUNCH HEARD CENTRAL PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY IN CONCERT -- "AND THE CHINESE WERE EXCELLENT." ORMANDY LED HIS GROUP IN PRAISING SOCIETY ORCHESTRA, WHICH CLOSED CONCERT WITH SETTING OF MAO POEMS.

9. ALZA CORP. OF PALO ALTO, CALIF., IS CARRYING OUT CLINICAL TRIALS OF EXPERIMENTAL ONCE-A-YEAR BIRTH CONTROL DRUG ON 150 WOMEN OF PRC. WP'S AUERBACH REPORTS USG OFFICIALS WERE SURPRISED THAT CHINA ALLOWED TESTS -- BELIEVED FIRST PHARMACEUTICAL EXPERIMENTS IN PRC BY ANY FOREIGN DRUG COMPANY SINCE 1949 -- ON SUCH "SENSITIVE SUBJECT." ALZA SAYS TESTS BEING CONDUCTED IN PEKING, SHANGHAI AND CANTON, COVERING 3 BASIC CULTURAL AREAS OF CHINA, AND PRC HAS AGREED TO FOLLOW SAME RESEARCH PROCEDURES AS OTHER CLINICS THROUGHOUT WORLD USING IUD. IF CHINESE OK PRELIMINARY RESULTS, TESTING WILL EXPAND TO OTHER CLINICS.

10. PRC FOREIGN MINISTRY VIGOROUSLY DENIES RECENT ALLEGATIONS IN MONGOLIAN NEWSPAPER THAT PLA HAD REPEATEDLY VIOLATED SINO-MONGOLIAN BORDER. CHINESE LABEL CHARGES "FABRICATION AND A SLANDER WITH ULTERIOR UNCLASSIFIED

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MOTIVES." REUTER PEKING SAYS "ULTERIOR MOTIVES" ALLUSION SEEN IMPLICATION THAT SOVIET IS BEHIND MONGOLIAN CLAIMS, "WHICH MEANS THAT CHINA MAY REGARD THE ALLEGATIONS AS A FURTHER DEVELOPMENT IN A PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN AGAINST CHINA."

11. CSM'S WOHL NOTES REPORTS BY ASIA RADIO MONITORS OF HEAVY PLA MOVEMENTS AND CONCENTRATIONS ON CHINA'S MANCHURIAN BORDER WITH RUSSIA, WITH CHINESE RADIO FREQUENCIES CHANGED, APPARENTLY TO HIDE TROOP SHIFTS. WOHL SAYS DEFENSIVE PREPARATIONS STEPPED UP AFTER PARTY CONGRESS.

12. CSM'S POND, IN TOKYO, SAYS CHOU HAS PROPOSED THAT CHINESE AND JAPANESE FMS EXCHANGE VISITS, POSSIBLY LATER THIS YEAR; SUGGESTS THIS GESTURE IS PERHAPS MOVE TO BALANCE NEXT MONTH'S JAPANESE-SOVIET SUMMIT IN MOSCOW. IN GENERAL, SINO-JAPANESE RELATIONS HAVE PICKED UP AFTER YEAR OF RELATIVE STAGNATION. COMMERCIAL AVIATION AGREEMENT HAS STALLED OVER TAIWAN FLIGHTS INTO JAPAN, BUT BOTH SIDES AGREED TO BYPASS AVIATION ISSUE AND PROCEED TO EASIER AGREEMENTS. LONG-TERM TRADE PACT NEGOTS TAKING PLACE IN PEKING THIS MONTH, AND BOTH HAVE EXCHANGED VISITS BY HIGH-POWERED BUSINESS DELEGATIONS.

13. CSM KEYSTONE PHOTO SHOWS CHINESE WORKERS, TANZANIANS AND ZAMBIANS CELEBRATING COMPLETION OF LITTLE OVER HALF OF TRACK OF TANZAM RAILWAY AT BORDER CROSSING.

14. CONTINUING MAO-POMPIDOU TALKS FOCUS ON SEASIA

AND EUROPE (UPI, NYDN; REUTER, NYT; WP, SUN). DIPLOMATIC SOURCES REPORT FRENCH ARE UNHAPPY WITH WORDING OF NCNA DISPATCH ON POMPIDOU-MAO MEETING WEDNESDAY QUOTING POMPIDOU SAYING MAO HAS "CHANGED THE VISAGE OF THE WORLD"; FRENCH FELT IT COULD BE INTERPRETED AS INDIRECT SLIGHT TO BREZHNEV (REUTER).

15. TORONTO GLOBE & MAIL'S BURNS (CSM), IN PEKING, SAYS POINT OF INTEREST IN MAO-POMPIDOU MEETING WAS THAT FOR FIRST TIME IN SEVERAL YEARS TOP 3 MEN IN UNCLASSIFIED

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PRC LEADERSHIP (MAO, CHOU AND WANG) ALL ATTENDED. BURNS SAYS PEKING AIR IS HEAVY WITH COMPARISONS OF TIME MAO SPENT WITH POMPIDOU, NIXON AND HAK. CANADIANS ARE WATCHING FRENCH PERFORMANCE IN PEKING FOR POINTERS AS TO RECEPTION TRUDEAU CAN EXPECT WHEN HE ARRIVES OCT. 10.

16. NYT'S SHAPIRO, IN TAIPEI, REPORTS THAT TAIWAN'S NEWLY-ORGANIZED NATIONAL CHINESE OPERA THEATER, WHICH LEFT FOR 3-MONTH US TOUR THURSDAY, MAY HAVE CAUSED COLLAPSE OF TAIWAN'S ONLY OPERA COMPANY GIVING REGULAR PUBLIC PERFORMANCES BECAUSE IT TOOK STARS FROM CHI LIN TROUPE WHICH CANNOT EXIST IN TAIPEI WITHOUT TOP PERFORMERS.

JAPAN

17. WIDE COVERAGE CONTINUES FOCUS ON TOKYO GATT MEETING. SUN DISPATCH EXPECTS SESSION WILL END WITH ADOPTION OF BROADLY-WORDED SET OF GENERAL TRADE PRINCIPLES CALLED "TOKYO DECLARATION."

18. LAT'S JAMESON, IN TOKYO, REPORTS USHIBA SPEECH AT JAPAN-AMERICAN SOCIETY THERE. FORMER AMB. SAID US AND JAPAN SUFFER FROM "HANG-OVER FROM THE PAST WHICH MAKES IT SOMETIMES DIFFICULT TO CARRY OUT A POLICY OF EQUAL PARTNERSHIP. . . JAPAN IS STILL SUFFERING FROM A JUNIOR PARTNER COMPLEX. . . ON THE OTHER HAND, IT WAS NOT SO LONG AGO WHEN SOME AMERICANS WHO ARE SUPPOSED TO KNOW JAPAN WELL STATED PUBLICLY THAT THE ONLY WAY TO GET CONCESSIONS FROM THE JAPANESE WAS TO CLOBBER THEM OVER THE HEAD." USHIBA OFFERED ONE CAUTIOUS WORD OF OPTIMISM FOR FUTURE. CITING RECENT NIXON-TANAKA MEETING, SAID FOR FIRST TIME NATIONS' LEADERS HAD VIEWED US-JAPAN RELATIONSHIP IN GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE, AND "NOW, PERHAPS FOR THE FIRST TIME, TALKS ABOUT 'A NEW ERA' OF 'EQUAL PARTNERSHIP' IN US-JAPAN RELATIONS ... IS GOING TO HAVE A SUBSTANTIAL MEANING."

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19. AMB. SULLIVAN, ADDRESSING ROTARY CLUB OF PHILIPPINES, SAID THAT TODAY US AND JAPAN SHOULD EXERCISE CERTAIN INFLUENCE IN SEASIA TO MAINTAIN EQUILIBRIUM AMONG GREAT POWERS AND PROTECT REGION FROM CHINESE OR SOVIET ATTACK. SAID TYPE OF INFLUENCE SHOULD DEPEND ON MANY FACTORS, ADDING: "CLEARLY FOR THE JAPANESE, IT IS GOING TO BE ECONOMIC INFLUENCE OR ECONOMIC PRESENCE. . .FOR OURSELVES, IT'S GOING TO BE . . . A CONTINUED LIMITED MILITARY PRESENCE . . .A CONTINUED ECONOMIC PRESENCE" (UPI, NYDN).

20. MARCOS DECREES THAT ALL MOSLEM RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS OBSERVED BY ISLAMIC COUNTRIES BE GIVEN OFFICIAL RECOGNITION IN ALL MOSLEM AREAS IN S. PHILS (AP, CHITRIB).

KOREA

21. KIM IL SUNG HA EJECTED DUAL UN MEMBERSHIP WITH ROK, ACCORDING TO BURCHETT FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW INTERVIEW PUBLISHED THURSDAY. MAINTAINED SUCH UN MEMBERSHIP "WOULD SIMPLY PERPETUATE THE DIVISION OF OUR COUNTRY." KIM ADDED THAT US SHOULD ABANDON PARK AND SEEK OTHER "SOUND POLITICAL PERSONALITIES" IN SOUTH FOR LEADERSHIP (UPI, NYDN).

PACIFIC MANEUVERS

22. LARGEST NAVAL ARMADA ASSEMBLED SINCE JAN. VN C-F BEGAN WAR GAMES IN PACIFIC WEDNESDAY; AUSTRALIA AND NZ AMONG PARTICIPANTS WITH US (UPI, NYDN).

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

23. CSM SAYS POMPIDOU PEKING VISIT FITS INTO BROAD CONTEXT OF PRC RELATIONS WITH WEST. DESPITE CONTRADICTIONARY ASSERTION IN CHOU'S CCP CONGRESS SPEECH THAT WEST PROMOTES DETENTE WITH USSR IN ORDER DIVERT SOVIET ATTENTION TO CHINA, HE CLEARLY APPEARED ENDORSE POLICY OF STRENGTHENING TIES WITH WEST.
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ALTHOUGH CULTURAL EXCHANGE TEMPO HAS SLOWED, CSM NOTES THAT SCHEDULED VISITS BY US GROUPS MERELY POSTPONED, APPARENTLY DUE CHIEFLY TO PRC PREOCCUPATION WITH CCP AND NPC CONGRESSES. WHILE CHINESE ARE STILL DEBATING INTERNAL PROBLEMS, IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS SOVIET THREAT

REMAINS PREDOMINANT AND WESTERN APERTURE IS LINKED TO NATIONAL SECURITY QUESTION. WITH HAK, HEATH AND TRUDEAU TO FOLLOW POMPIDOU, CSM SAYS MAIN CHINESE THEME WILL BE TO KEEP NATO STRONG.

24. ARTICLES BY BURGESS (WP) AND MARKHAM (NYT) ARE HOPEFUL ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR LAOS FUTURE UNDER NEW COALITION REGIME, ON BASIS "NEW ATMOSPHERE" AND INDICATIONS THAT MAJOR EXTERNAL POWERS (US, THAILAND, NVNL) WANT TO SEE IT WORK, AS WELL AS REMARKS BY PL NEGOTIATORS THAT THEY "STRUGGLED" FOR AGREEMENT AND INTEND TO CARRY IT OUT IN LETTER AND SPIRIT. BOTH WRITERS DOUBTFUL THAT NVN WILL ENTIRELY ABANDON HO CHI MINH TRAIL, REGARDLESS OF WHAT PROTOCOLS SAY. BOTH SAY AGREEMENT WAS GENUINE COMPROMISE WITH IMPORTANT PL CONCESSIONS MAKING IT POSSIBLE, WITH PRESSURE BY USG THROUGH CHARGE DEAN PARTICULARLY ON RIGHT WING GENERALS TO MAKE THEM COME ALONG. ALTHOUGH POLITICAL CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL WILL PLAY IMPORTANT ROLE, RLG SOURCES TOLD BURGESS THERE IS UNDERSTANDING THAT IT WILL BE SUBORDINATE TO GOVERNMENT. AND OBSERVERS AGREE THAT MOST IMPORTANT MINISTRIES OF DEFENSE, FINANCE, AND INTERIOR WILL BE HELD BY RLG SIDE.

25. SAIKOWSKI (CSM) WRITES OF WASHINGTON OFFICIALS WHO WONDER WHETHER US CAN PULL OFF NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT IN CAMBODIA. IF GKR CAN HANG ON TO KOMPONG CHAM FOR NEXT SIX WEEKS PERHAPS NEW SECSTATE HAK WOULD BE IN POSITION TO SEEK POLITICAL SOLUTION WHILE ON PEKING VISIT. KOMPONG CHAM COULD, THEREFORE, BECOME "AN LOC" OF CAMBODIA. SOME INDOCHINA WATCHERS, HOWEVER, QUESTION HOW MUCH LEVERAGE WASHINGTON HAS LEFT WITH HANOI, AND BELIEVE PEKING MAY BE REASSESSING RELATIONSHIP WITH US IN LIGHT OF CONGRESSIONAL BOMBING BAN THAT HAS "GREATLY WEAKENED PRESIDENT NIXON'S HAND". BUT KI, NVA AND CHINESE LACK UNITY
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OF PURPOSE, INDICATED BY EVIDENCE OF KI-NVA/VC CLASHES, WHILE CHINA MAY NOT WANT NVN TO CONTROL INDOCHINA SCENE TOTALLY; BETTER US-PRC RELATIONS MAY ALSO ADD TO PEKING'S SECURITY VIS-A-VIS USSR. GKR RESOLVE SEEMS STRENGTHENED AND EVERYTHING NOW HINGES ON FIGHTING AND LON NOL GOVERNMENT'S PERFORMANCE.

26. SELLES (CSM), IN SECOND OF TWO ARTICLES, DISCUSSES ASIAN LAND AND CONSTRUCTION DEVELOPMENTS. IN HONG KONG, LAND IS TIGHT, PRICES CLIMB EVERY DAY, ALL IS LEASEHOLD, AND AMERICANS INVEST IN RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENTS. IN TAIWAN, LAND VALUES DROPPED 25 PERCENT IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING ITS OUSTER FROM UN IN 1971, BUT NOW UP AGAIN AS OVER

100 US FIRMS MOVE IN FOLLOWING JAPAN'S WITHDRAWAL
WHEN IT RECOGNIZED PRC. IN PHILIPPINES, RED TAPE
BEING SLASHED AND BETTER ECONOMY PREDICTED, BUT
MANY HAVE WAIT-AND-SEE ATTITUDE WHILE GOVERNMENT
SEEKS REAL-STATE BUYERS AND INVESTORS WITH BARGAIN
PRICES.

27. NYT OBSERVES CIVIL WAR CONTINUES IN
CAMBODIA, INDECISION RIFE IN VN, BUT PEACE SIGNED
IN LAOS SETTING UP COALITION GOVERNMENT BETWEEN
PL AND NEUTRALISTS. RIGHTISTS IMPOTENT
AS US WITHDRAWS SUPPORT THAT ENABLED IT TO UPSET
TWO PREVIOUS COALITIONS. LONG LAOTIAN WAR WAS
CREATED BY OUTSIDE FORCES, BUT CAUSES BECAME
IRRELEVANT. USSR NOW HAS BIGGER PROBLEMS IN
ASIA; PRC MAIN INTEREST IS STILL-UNEXPLAINED ROAD
BUILDING PROGRAM IN N. LAOS; US NEEDED FACE-SAVING
WAY OUT; HANOI LOSES NOTHING SINCE RETAINS HO CHI
MINH TRAIL AND HAS BUFFER AGAINST THAILAND.
LAOS CAN NOW LOOK FORWARD TO RESPITE FROM SELF-
SERVING MEDDLERS. RUSH

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